

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04318 082033Z  
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 W  
-----032623 100433Z /13

R 081859Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1493

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4318

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OAS, HO, (POUJOL, FEDERICO)  
SUBJ: CHANGES IN OAS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES: SNEW HONDURAN  
AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 225310

1. EVEN BEFORE THE RECENT DEATH OF HONDURAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON AND OAS, ROBERTO LAZARUS, THE GOH WAS PLANNING TO SEPARATE THE TWO POSITIONS. A PRIME CANDIDATE AND THE SUBJECT OF INCREASING RUMORS TO FILL THE OAS POSITION IS COL. FEDERICO POUJOL, NOW MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH NOMINATION HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO BE MADE PUBLIC ALREADY, IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE, INDICATING POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES (SEE IIRZ201419378 OF AUGUST 28, WHICH REPORTS GOH ALLEGEDLY WANT POUJOL TO RETIRE BEFORE BEING NAMED, WHILE POUJOL BELIEVES HE CAN RETURN TO ACTIVE DUTY AND MAKE GENERAL). COMMENT: IF POUJOL BELIEVES THIS, HE IS NOT BEING REALISTIC. END COMMENT.

2. COL. POUJOL HAS BEEN CONSUL GENERAL AND THEN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO (1964-1965) AND GUATEMALA (1965-1972) AND MILITARY ATTACHE IN MEXICO (1972-1975). DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BIOGRAPHIC DATA REPORT OF FEB. 1975 PROVIDES MORE DETAILS OF CAREER.

3. COMMENT: COL. POUJOL HAS EFFECTIVELY BEEN OUT OF HONDURAS SINCE 1962 WHEN HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE. IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED HE HAS BEEN KEPT ASSIGNED ABROAD  
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ALL THIS TIME BECAUSE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH RETIRED COL. ARMANDO VALAZQUEZ, HONDURAS' PERENNIAL COUP PLOTTER (77 TEGUCIGALPA A-59) WHO IS NOW AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN. INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE AND IN WASHINGTON IS CONTRADICTORY, INDICATING IN GENERAL HE IS FAIRLY COMPETENT BUT NOT HIGHLY REGARDED BY HIS COLLEAGUES. INDEED, IN 1975 IT HAD BEEN EXPECTED HE WOULD BE RETIRED RATHER THAN SENT TO WASHINGTON. THE REPORTED LACK OF REGARD MAY BE DUE

TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RATHER THAN HIS COMPETENCE. HE HAS,  
AT LEAST, EXPERIENCE IN WASHINGTON AND AS AN AMBASSADOR. END  
COMMENT.

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORT SEPARATELY ON RECENTLY NAMED DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC AMBASSADOR, ELADIO KNIPPING, WHO HAS BEEN IN TEGUCI-  
GALPA SINCE 1974 AND WHO IS NOT EXPECTED TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON  
BEFORE NEXT MONTH.  
JARAMILLO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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